

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the present application is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 6, 13 and 14 have been rejected under §102(b) as being anticipated by WO 00/70922 (Haupt). Claims 1, 13 and 14 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer, thereby rendering the Examiner's rejection moot. Claim 6 has been amended to depend from claim 2, which is allowable as set forth below.

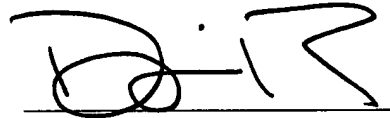
Claim 12 has been rejected under §103(a) as being obvious in view of the combination of Haupt and AAPA. Claim 12 has been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer, thereby rendering the Examiner's rejection moot.

The Examiner's indication that claims 2, 3, 16, 17, 20 and 21 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims is noted and appreciated. In response, claims 2, 16, 17, 20 and 21 have been amended into independent form as suggested by the Examiner. Therefore, claims 2, 16, 17, 20 and 21 are now in allowable form. As claim 3 depends from allowable independent claim 2, claim 3 is allowable by virtue of its dependency on claim 2.

The Examiner's allowance of claims 15, 18 and 19 is noted and appreciated.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, the present application is believed to be in condition for allowance. A prompt notice to that effect is respectfully requested. Although no additional fees are believed to be due, permission is hereby given to charge any unforeseen fees to deposit account 50-1147.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. G. Posz', written over a horizontal line.

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